C. J. Millett

TWENTY-THIRD

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1875.

LYNN:
THOS. P. NICHOLS, PRINTER,
No. 24 MARKET STREET.
1875.

Twenty-Third Annual Report

OF THE

AUDITING COMMITTEE

OF THE

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT,

FOR THE YEAR ENDING FEBRUARY 28, 1875.

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Report of Auditing Committee.

To the Citizens of Swampscott:

The Committee appointed to examine the accounts in the various departments of the town have attended to that duty, and herewith respectfully present their Annual Report. Our labors have been greatly facilitated by the careful manner in which each department has been numbered and arranged by itself in the "Ready Reference File."

E. E. BOYNTON,
D. W. FULLER,
F. O. ELLIS,
} Auditing Committee.

The Assessors' valuation of the town, May 1, 1874, is as follows:

Real estate	$2,028,875 00
Personal estate	457,260 00
Total	$2,486,135 00
State Tax	2,760 00
County Tax	1,900 75
Town Tax	23,914 56
Rate of taxation	$1.10 on $100
Number of polls	612
Total tax on polls	1,224 00
Number of dwelling-houses	447
Acres of land	1537
Horses	195
Cows	101
Sheep	15

STATEMENT OF TOWN DEBT.

E. Proctor	$600 00
E. Knowles	250 00
W. Small	500 00
Coffin & Boyce	3,000 00
C. F. Coffin	28,000 00
D. Newhall (estate)	500 00
M. Wilson	1,200 00
Blaney & Phillips	1,000 00
H. Martin, Jr.	1,000 00
J. T. Hooper	874 80
J. Smith	300 00
Provident Institution for Savings	4,500 00
First Congregational Society	1,218 00
Lynn Five Cents Savings Institution	2,500 00
P. A. Chase	6,000 00
Outstanding orders	272 85
Total	$51,715 65

The balance of uncollected taxes is as follows:

J. Harding, 1872	$119 38	
J. Harding, 1873	2,511 45	
Wm. Seger, 1874	5,781 72	
Total tax uncollected		$8,412 55
Due on State Aid	$616 00	
Cash in Treasury	1,307 33	
Value of public property	38,200 00	
		$40,123 33
		$48,535 88

Total amount of bills paid during the year, Selectmen's Department	$19,930 10

Receipts and Expenditures.

SELECTMEN'S DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation $2,000 00

EXPENDITURES.

C. F. Bessom (est.,) printing Assessors' Report	$91	80
printing Auditor's Report	70	90
printing tax bills	16	75
Thomas Breare, plan book	5	00
Salem Observer, printing	2	00
George F. King, envelopes	1	25
F. W. Atkins, copying	5	00
D. G. Frazer, distributing Reports	6	50
D. P. Stimpson, stamps, box rent, deeds, etc.	11	84
Town of Marblehead, tax on gravel pit	7	59
W. H. Coates, copy of record	2	00
Chas. A. Hammond, surveying, etc.	113	00
Chas. A. Hammond, surveying boundary line	18	00
S. R. Rogers & Son, surveying, 1873	39	50
Newhall & Harmon, legal services	71	50
Mary S. Belcher, damage to furniture	100	25
James Hartshorn, tax refunded	17	20
James Hanley, lease of land	50	00
Geo. H. Holden, sundries	23	99
S. C. Pitman, labor on Cherry Street	257	00
S. C. Pitman, grading New Ocean Street	128	00
S. C. Pitman, labor on Redington St. and Court	50	17
John Chapman, repairing	2	60
Wm. Seger, stationery, stamps and copying	35	00
Amount carried forward,	$1,126	84

Amount brought forward,	$1,126 84	
Benjamin Potter, services as Selectman . . .	150 00	
J. S. Higgins, services as Selectman	75 00	
Allen Rowe, services as Selectman	75 00	
Wm. Seger, services as Assessor	95 00	
Geo. Towns, services as Assessor	35 00	
James A. Knowlton, Assessor, 1873	35 00	
Thos. E. Stone, services as Assessor, 1873 .	35 00	
Wm. Seger, Collector and Treasurer	350 00	
Benj. Potter, services as Secretary	75 00	
Geo. H. Holden, services as Town Clerk . .	75 00	
Geo. H. Holden, recording births and deaths .	34 65	
E. E. Boynton, Auditing Committee and extra labor, copying, etc., 1873	20 00	
F. O. Ellis, Auditing Committee, 1873 . . .	10 00	
Frank M. Alley, return of deaths	2 40	
Tewksbury & Guilford, examining Methodist Church spire	25 00	
		$2,218 89

SCHOOL DEPARTMENT.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation	$7,000 00	
From State Fund	238 27	
Rent of hall in Pine Street school-house . .	75 00	
		$7,313 27

EXPENDITURES.

G. C. Fisher, services as teacher	$1,062 34	
E. J. Hadley	449 99	
C. M. Colcord	261 62	
M. E. Larkin	429 06	
Sarah Palmer	449 99	
F. F. Mott	449 99	
P. M. Williams	164 64	
Amount carried forward,	$3,267 63	

Amount brought forward,	$3,267 63
E. F. Adams	375 56
Louise Boynton	18 60
Carrie Roberts	102 32
Abbie Mott	223 24
M. E. Seger	46 50
Etta Heyborn	167 43
Delia P. Beers	309 74
L. Drury	42 82
Samuel W. Clark	102 89
H. W. Fisher, teaching music	30 00
L. Drury, services as Committee	75 00
L. Hayford, services as Committee	60 00
Ivory Emmons, services as Committee	50 00
L. Delano, janitor at Grammar School	192 60
Geo. Thomas, janitor at Grammar School	23 00
E. S. Martin, janitor at Grammar School	152 75
James Bryant, janitor at Pine St. School	100 00
J. H. Hayes, janitor at Farms School	30 50
Mrs. Casey, janitor at Farms School	26 00
Betsey Galeucia, janitor at Beach School	60 00
B. McCarthy, janitor at Essex St. School	14 50
R. V. Bessom, janitor at Essex St. School	21 00
Ivory Emmons, labor and stock at Pine St. school-house	156 80
do. at Grammar school-house	86 07
do. at Essex St. school-house	85 60
do. at Farms school-house	31 87
do. at Pine St. school-house	22 31
do. sundries	20 48
S. Armstrong, grading Pine Street lot	125 00
S. Armstrong, building wall, Pine St. lot	150 00
James E. Manning, whitewashing, etc.	100 00
Fellows & Co., painting and graining	137 00
Daniel Lee, repairs	26 34
Joseph L. Ross, desks and chairs	66 00
Choate & Rowe, wood and coal	388 00
Daniel Rowe, sawing and splitting wood	5 00
Amount carried forward,	$6,892 55

Amount brought forward,	$6,892 55	
D. E. Lombard, sawing and splitting wood .	3 25	
J. L. Hammett, maps, globes and stationery	145 07	
W. B. Chase, books, etc.	57 18	
Thos. P. Nichols, printing School Report .	70 25	
T. O. Philbrick, repairs, stoves and pipe . .	23 50	
Benj Potter, 900 picks and teaming . . .	19 60	
A. E. Mudge, glazing	10 00	
L. S. Carter & Co., shades	9 72	
L. M. Emerton & Co., repairing lightning rods	9 00	
S. N. Breed & Co., lumber	8 76	
L. Hayford, stationery, etc.	6 00	
H. M. Norton, labor and stock	6 00	
L. Drury, bells, etc.	8 76	
W. H. Collins, glazing	5 00	
P. Cullen, ash-barrel, etc.	3 55	
C. A. Morris, glazing	1 25	
C. F. Oliver, tuning organ	2 00	
		$7,281 44

ESSEX STREET SCHOOL-HOUSE

Balance of appropriation	$550 00

EXPENDITURE.

S. C. Pitman, building wall and grading grounds	$175 00

TOWN LIBRARY.

RECEIPTS.

Appropriation	$200 00	
Received for books loaned	364 20	
		$564 20

EXPENDITURES.

Estes & Lauriat, for books	$282 68	
N. E. Agency, magazines	18 65	
D. P. Stimpson, magazines	3 33	
H W. Jones, book	1 23	
Binney & Stimpson, paper	14 65	
C. F. Bessom (estate), printing	10 00	
W. F. Norcross, stationery	3 85	
Breare & Son, binding books	37 10	
Curtis Merritt, services as Librarian, etc.	177 90	
A. F. Nesbett, care of Library	22 24	
		$571 63

HIGHWAYS.

Appropriation	$3.500 00	
Appropriated for sidewalks	500 00	
Appropriated for fences	500 00	
		$4,500 00

EXPENDITURES.

Samuel C. Pitman, teams and labor	$3,131 62
teams and labor	28 00
clearing snow	72 00
P. Cullen, blacksmithing	48 83
L. O. Keefe, blasting	10 26
Daniel Myers, blasting	7 56
B. B. Smith, repairing snow-plow	6 80
Chas. B. Smith, repairing snow-plow	4 30
H. Hall & Co., shovels, etc.	4 00
S. C. Pitman, teams and labor, sidewalks	572 12
S. G. Brett, concrete gutters	50 00
S. Flint, drain pipe	19 44
S. C. Pitman, teams and labor on fences	98 25
Amount carried forward,	$4,053 18

Amount brought forward,	$4,053 18	
P. M. Neal, fencing	75 14	
Potter & Gilbert, posts	36 15	
J. H. Bradford, labor	31 49	
E. B. Phillips, 45 cedar posts	22 50	
E. B. Phillips, 20 gallons oil	12 00	
Gilbert Delano, labor and stock	16 31	
P. Cullen, blacksmithing	14 44	
L. O. Keefe, drilling	12 25	
W. H. Collins, paint	6 95	
B. Potter, teaming	4 00	
		$4,284 41

CEMETERY.

Appropriation	$100 00	
Receipts for lots sold	125 00	
Balance of appropriation, 1873	500 00	
		$725 00

EXPENDITURES.

J. L. Brown, labor	$171 25	
W. H. Low, new gate	241 00	
T. Hyde, building wall	174 50	
C. A. Hammond, surveying	48 00	
Wm. Hayden, tomb door	56 00	
S. C. Pitman, trees	32 50	
J. F. Story, wall damage	51 00	
W. H. Collins, paint, etc.	34 70	
J. H. Crosman, service as Undertaker	27 00	
C. A. Morris, painting gates	10 00	
B. Potter, posts, etc.	11 01	
Longley & Mudgett, posts	6 90	
Isaac Myrick, locks	1 30	
John S. Higgins, services	25 00	
		$890 16

OVERSEERS OF THE POOR.

Appropriation		$600 00

EXPENDITURES.

Taunton Lunatic Hospital, for James Bishop .	$200 10	
Worcester Lunatic Hospital, Margaret Welch .	207 59	
Overseers Poor, Boston, aid to Ellen Burroughs	72 00	
J. B. Newcomb, groceries to T. Peabody, 1873	5 00	
Philip Short, funeral expenses of George Wentworth's child, 1870	8 00	
Choate & Rowe, fuel	59 55	
Geo. Melzard, labor on body found on beach . .	3 00	
J. H. Crosman, burial of three infants and A. C. Pinkham's child	20 00	
E. C. & J. Litch, groceries to Mrs. W. C. Pierce	2 00	
City of Lynn, lodgings for tramps	2 50	
City of Lynn, aid to Mrs. Wm. C. Pierce . . .	10 00	
Mrs. Watts, nursing Mrs Woodbury	14 00	
G. H. Holden, groceries to Mrs. Travers (State pauper)	8 18	
Z. Small, services as Overseer	18 00	
J. A. Knowlton, services as Overseer	15 00	
D. F. Proctor, services as Overseer	5 00	
D. F. Proctor, car fares for tramps	80	
		$650 72

TOWN HOUSE.

Received for rent of Town Hall		$148 00

EXPENDITURES.

Choate & Rowe, coal and wood	$31 25	
Hanford & Phillips, painting flag-staff	29 00	
John Binney, lantern	17 50	
C. A. Morris, lettering	9 50	
Amount carried forward,	$87 25	

Amount brought forward,	$87 25	
P. Cullen, lantern fixture	10 00	
M. R. Twiney, cleaning	6 12	
Ivory Emmons, labor	4 00	
Lee & Ford, oil, etc.	3 15	
May & Withey, grate, etc.	3 74	
John S. Leavitt, cleaning, etc.	14 00	
Wm. B. Hardy, janitor, etc.	7 82	
A. F. Nesbett, janitor, etc.	59 39	
		$195 47

STREET IMPROVEMENTS.

Appropriation	$2,250 00	
Balance from Essex Street appropriation	1,280 00	
		$3,530 00

EXPENDITURES.

S. C. Pitman, contract on Rockland Street	$1,200 00	
S. C. Pitman, labor, etc., on Rockland Street	131 25	
S. C. Pitman, labor, etc., on Rock Avenue	51 50	
Robert Harris, contract on Rock Avenue	1,000 00	
S. B. Mudge, balance of contract, Essex St.	950 25	
S. R. Rogers & Son, surveying Essex St.	34 50	
Eben B. Phillips, gravel, 1872	200 00	
		$3,567 50

STREET LAMPS.

Appropriation		$200 00

EXPENDITURES.

Walworth Manufacturing Co., oil, etc	$37 38	
John Binney, burners	9 00	
C. A. Morris, glazing	2 30	
Otis Ingalls (estate), matches	2 10	
Geo. W. Harris, care of lamps	156 00	
		$206 78

FIRE DEPARTMENT.

Received for rent of Engine Hall		$50 00

EXPENDITURE.

A. F. Nesbett, care of engine, etc.		$28 24

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

EXPENDITURES.

W. B. Chase, services	10 00	
Thomas Hadley, services	27 25	
C. F. Bessom (estate), printing	2 50	
		$39 75

POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Appropriation		$200 00

EXPENDITURES.

T. Hadley, services as Constable	$25 00	
Geo. Farrington, services as Constable . . .	25 00	
T. Hadley, police service	117 00	
T. Hadley, services as witness (boat case) .	59 80	
Joseph Stanley, police service	2 00	
		$228 80

STATE AID.

Received from the State		$550 00

EXPENDITURES.

A. M. Widger	$48 00	
B. Milan	48 00	
Amount carried forward,	$96 00	

Amount brought forward.	$96 00	
I. F. Chute	48 00	
D. Delano	48 00	
H. Johnson	48 00	
C. H. Fairbanks	48 00	
J. W. Glass	72 00	
J. Umber	48 00	
J. C. Stimpson	120 00	
E. Winslow	48 00	
Torrey Peabody	40 00	
		$616 00

MEMORIAL DAY.

Appropriation	$100 00

EXPENDITURE.

Paid Post 118, G. A. R.	$100 00

RECAPITULATION.

	Appropriations and Receipts.	Expenditures.
Selectmen's Department	$2,000 00	$2,218 89
School Department	7,313 27	7,281 34
Essex Street School House	550 00	175 00
Highways	4,500 00	4,284 41
Cemetery	725 00	890 16
Town House	148 00	195 47
Street Improvements	3,530 00	3,567 50
Street Lamps	200 00	206 78
Police Department	200 00	228 80
Town Library	564 20	571 63
Overseers of the Poor	600 00	650 72
Fire Department	50 00	28 24
Health Department		39 75
Memorial Day	100 00	100 00
State Aid	550 00	616 00
State Tax	2,500 00	2,760 00
County Tax	1,800 00	1,900 75
Interest	4,000 00	5,131 71
Corporation Tax	1,655 27	
Dog Fund	172 79	
National Bank Tax	2,291 72	
	$33,450 25	$30,847 15

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC PROPERTY.

Town House and lot	$12,000 00	
Grammar School House and lot	8,000 00	
Beach School House and lot	2,500 00	
Pine Street School House and lot	7,000 00	
Farm School House and lot	2,500 00	
Essex Street School House and lot . . .	2,500 00	
Engine House, engine, hose, etc.	1,200 00	
Hearse and house	500 00	
Gravel pits	2,000 00	
		$38,200 00

Town of Swampscott in account with John Stanley, Collector.

Dr.		*Cr.*	
1874.		1874.	
To am't taxes collected .	$65 74	By amount committed .	$101 14
abated .	35 40		
	$101 14		$101 14

Town of Swampscott in acc't with Joseph Harding, Collector.

Dr.		*Cr.*	
1875.		1875.	
To am't collected, '72,	$31 80	By balance committed,	
uncollected, '72,	119 38	1872	$151 18
collected, 1873,	3,876 40	1873	6,414 45
abated, 1873 .	26 60		
uncollected, '73,	2,511 45		
	$6,565 63		$6,565 63

Swampscott, Feb. 27, 1875.

Town of Swampscott in account with Wm. Seger, Collector.

Dr.		*Cr.*	
1874.		1874.	
To amount collected,	$21.903 71	By am't committed,	$28,575 00
discount, .	609 72		
abated, . .	279 85		
uncollected,	5,781 72		
	$28,575 00		$28,575 00

WILLIAM SEGER, Collector.

TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT IN ACCOUNT WITH

1874. Dr.

To cash paid Selectmen's orders, 1874	$19,506	99
Selectmen's orders, 1873	423	11
Overseer's orders, 1874	558	42
note National Hide and Leather Bank	26,000	00
note John Stanley	1,000	00
note John Proctor	400	00
note C. E. Morrison, town loan	4,000	00
note City Bank, Lynn, town loan	2,500	00
note City Bank, Lynn, town loan	3,000	00
note Thos. Stanley	1,000	00
note Thos. Stanley, guardian	500	00
note Thos. Stanley, guardian	500	00
note Albert J. Higgins	500	00
note Waldo Thompson, trustee	1,000	00
Interest on Notes	5,131	71
State Tax	2,760	00
County Tax	1,900	75
State Aid	616	00
Balance in Treasury	3,137	38
	$74,434	36

Swampscott, Feb. 27, 1875.

WILLIAM SEGER, TREASURER.

1874.	Cr.	
By balance cash in Treasury	$1,307	33
rent of Town Hall	148	00
rent of Palmer Hall	75	00
rent of Engine Hall	50	00
cash from Library	364	20
cash from Cemetery	125	00
cash from State Treasurer, State Aid	550	00
cash from State Treasurer, Corporation Tax	1,655	27
cash from State Treasurer, National Bank Tax	2,291	72
cash from State Treasurer, Mass. School Fund	238	27
cash from Lynn City Bank, temporary loan	2,500	00
cash from C. E. Morrison, temporary loan	4,000	00
cash from Lynn City Bank, temporary loan	3,000	00
cash from Dog Tax	172	79
cash from H. M. Norton, land rent	55	00
cash from P. A. Chase, note	6,000	00
cash from Chas. F. Coffin, note	26,000	00
cash refunded by L. Drury	8	05
cash from J. Harding, taxes 1873	3,876	40
cash from J. Harding, taxes 1872	31	80
cash from J. Stanley, taxes 1871	65	74
cash from Wm. Seger, 1874	21,903	71
cash from interest on taxes, 1874	16	08
	$74,434	36

WILLIAM SEGER, Treasurer.

Report of Surveyor of Highways.

The Surveyor of Highways respectfully submits the following report for the past year, — monthly statements of labor and teams having been (as the year previous) rendered to the Selectmen.

The number of days' labor in gravel pits and on the roads was 777, at $2.00	$1,554 00
Number of horse-carts, with drivers, at $3.50 . . .	1,567 12
Personal services for the year, 92 days, at $3.00 . .	276 00
SIDEWALKS AND GUTTERS.	
Number of days' labor 189, at $2.00	378 00
Number of horses, carts and drivers, 55½, at $3.50 .	194 25
FENCING DANGEROUS PLACES.	
Number of days' labor 40, at $2.00	80 00
Bills for lumber, posts, blacksmith work, etc.	249 59
	$4,298 96
Loads of gravel hauled on roads and sidewalks . . .	4,792
Number from gutters	84
Total	4,876

SAMUEL C. PITMAN.

SELECTMEN'S REPORT.

The Selectmen beg leave to submit the following report to the citizens for their consideration and action at the coming annual meeting.

DEBT.

We believe the whole debt of the town has been placed at a rate of interest at and below seven per cent. per annum ; and in conformity with the vote of the town at the last annual meeting, we hope that an appropriation will be made to pay some portion, if not a large one, of our indebtedness.

TOWN HALL.

It seems to be desired by some of the citizens to have the Town Hall enlarged, but we cannot understand that any enlargement is needed for any legitimate purpose, and as there is no revenue to be derived from the letting, we should not recommend it ; but would suggest that the matter be fully considered at this time, as the roof leaks, the foundation is insecure, and the inside of the hall itself needs to be cleansed and decorated, if it is to be used or let

for any purpose other than town meetings, and the coming season would be a favorable time to put the whole house in good condition. And we would also call attention to the need of more safe room for the security of the records against destruction by fire.

THE WAY TO THE BEACH.

The report laying out a way to the beach, opposite the old tavern, on being presented last spring, was amended before its adoption, as follows: "That the Selectmen be instructed to lay out said way as originally established by the town of Lynn, April 3, 1820, and recorded on page 10 of the Record of Streets and Ways."

Now if "originally established" means anything, we conclude that it means laying out, and if laid out in 1820, why lay it out again? But we decide that the way was never laid out, neither "originally" or otherwise, and the record on page 10 referred to reads as follows:

"To see if the town will open a road that leads to Blaney's Beach, so called, near John Heath's dwelling-house, agreeable to a petition —" . . . . . .

Town Meeting, April 3, 1820. "*Voted*, That the petition relative to opening a road at Swampscott be referred to a committee, at the expense of the petitioners.

Voted, That Robert Mansfield, Micajah Newhall and John L. Mansfield be this committee"

Town Meeting and Report, May 1, 1820: "The committee to whom was referred the business relative to the Swampscott road, beg leave to report, that they have attended to that duty, and are decidedly of the opinion that the town has a right to remove the obstructions, so that a free passage may be had to the Beach in the old road.

ROBERT MANSFIELD,
JOHN L. JOHNSON, } Committee."
MICAJAH NEWHALL,

"*Voted*, To accept the report, provided that Daniel Fuller relinquish all his right and title to a two-rod road leading to the Beach. Provided, also, that the town will remove the obstructions if the holders of the buildings refuse to do the same.

Said Fuller was present and agreed to the same.

Attest: SAMUEL HALLOWELL, Town Clerk."

Now the objections we find to this laying out is that it was illegal and utterly void, for the following reasons:

First. The petition should have been referred to and acted upon by the Selectmen *before the meeting*.

Second. It was referred to a committee instead of the Selectmen, to make a report.

Third. It was to be done at the expense of the petitioners.

Fourth. That as a report on laying out a way it amounts to nothing, as it does not locate or describe any way at all, but simply asserts that the "town had a right to remove certain obstructions, so that a free passage may be had to the beach in the old road."

And finally, their report is *no report at all*, but simply an *opinion*, which is not worth a straw.

And in view of all the circumstances heretofore attending the attempts to lay out a way in this locality, we cannot think that any other laying out would improve the one submitted at the last annual meeting, and we hope the report made at that time will be adopted intact, as any attempt to remove the adjoining buildings will be attended with an expense entirely inadequate to the public benefits to be realized. And we arrive at this conclusion after a review of the whole matter, and for this other reason: That the only sure way to maintain a town way or highway is to have them definitely and accurately located and described, and then there is no difficulty in the authorities maintaining them. But if, on the contrary, we have only such an *opinion* as we find on page 10, the *best* of Selectmen would hesitate about removing obstructions of fifty-five years' standing on the authority of such an *opinion* as that.

And we wish to impress upon the citizens the importance of having the way secured at once, as encroachments are liable to be made upon it at any time, and there is no legal defence against it until it is properly adopted by the town.

THE CLAIMS OF JOHN P. PALMER.

Mr. Palmer, under date of Aug. 20, 1874, through Messrs. Ives & Lincoln, made a demand on the Select-

men for the payment of about fifteen hundred dollars, which he claims the town owes him for recruiting service, and money paid out during the war and not refunded.

We find, by the Treasurer's Report for 1865, that there was returned to the town from the State Treasurer the sum of one hundred and thirty dollars as *premium for recruits*, which sum, if due Mr. Palmer, should have been paid him by the Selectmen of that year (Mr. Palmer being then, and for several years after, Chairman of the Board,) and we do not know of any obstacle in the way of his receiving the one hundred and thirty dollars, but the fact that the late Henry Thing, his predecessor, claimed that the money belonged to him (Thing).

In the year 1867 Mr. Thing claimed of the Selectmen the one hundred and thirty dollars, and was told by them that an order would be drawn for the amount when he and Mr. Palmer could agree as to its division, which they could never do, so far as we can learn, and we think it is fair to assume that as Mr. Palmer has never paid himself, that the money did not belong to him, or that he was afraid of the action of Mr. Thing if he did so.

The eleven hundred dollars claimed as money paid and not refunded we had not heard of, as a claim made by Mr. Palmer prior to the receipt of the letter of Aug. 20, except at the meeting of citizens, May 7, 1872, when, being requested to account for a charity

fund entrusted to his keeping, he excused his delay by saying that the town or some of the citizens owed him money spent during the war, and that he felt justified in taking the one to make good the other; and in the fullness of his soul, and the plenitude of his patriotism, he ended his harangue by exclaiming, in his most tragic manner, "*Who filled your quota, and got twenty-two men more than you wanted?*" Which interrogatory nobody answered, but some of us, who paid thirty dollars to keep out of the draft, and are now called upon to pay fifteen hundred more, would like to know how much those extra twenty-two men cost, and who paid the bounty. And as nineteen of the last twenty-two deserted before getting to the capital, as shown by the record, we don't feel that this Fustian hero should be rewarded beyond his ability to help himself in the past.

But as most of our voters are more or less familiar with this whole matter, we wish mainly to have it understood that this suit, if pressed upon us, we have to settle or to contest, and the Selectmen should be instructed at the annual meeting.

Respectfully submitted.

BENJ. POTTER,
JOHN S. HIGGINS, } Selectmen.
ALLEN ROWE,

Report of Trustees of Town Library.

Fellow Citizens:

In accordance with the vote passed at the annual March meeting of 1874, the Board of Selectmen appointed three Trustees who were to take general supervision of the Library. This step had been in contemplation for some months, and was deemed necessary in order to relieve the Selectmen of a part of their burden, and to lighten the duties and responsibilities of the Librarian. It was also required of them at the close of the year to present a report of their doings, giving such information relating to the condition and future prospects of the Library as might seem desirable. The year having closed, our report is now respectfully presented in as condensed a form as circumstances will allow.

THE NEW ROOM.

The great change from the little seven-by-nine room to the ample accommodations of a commodious and well-lighted apartment could not fail to give general satisfaction. No recent outlay of the town's money has been more cheerfully acquiesced in than this. When the shelves, which are now neatly

arranged on two sides of the room are filled, they can be gradually extended along the two remaining sides; and no enlargement of the room will probably be needed for many years to come.

NEW BOOKS.

Another duty devolving upon the Trustees was the examination and purchase of books. The appropriation of two hundred dollars being all required for the current expenses of the year, the only available funds for investment in new books came from the weekly receipts for books loaned. In this way two hundred and twenty-three volumes have been added during the year.

In selecting books, an effort has been made to secure interesting, instructive, and, as far as possible, *illustrated* works by the best authors. Works of pure fiction found little favor with your Committee, inasmuch as there were already too many of this class in the Library. Novels had been bought because they were *called for* more than other books; consequently, they brought in more dimes. But the Town Library is surely not intended to be a money-making institution. A far higher mission is accorded to it,—even to be a co-worker with the schools in elevating the standard of morality and refining the taste of the community. When imagination outruns reason, and the former grows strong at the expense of the latter, disaster and shipwreck are sure to follow.

STATISTICS.

From the Librarian's statement we gather the following:

Number of books in Library, February, 1874	2020
Number of new books bought during 1874	223
Number of books lost during 1874	6
Number of books in Library, February, 1875	2237
State and Government documents, February, 1875	138
Magazines and pamphlets, February, 1875	160
Books loaned during the year	6054
Amount received for book fees	$364 20

DONATIONS.

From United States Government	7
From H. W. Jones	3
From E. E. Boynton	6
From H. Crosman	1

REVISED REGULATIONS.

Books are taken from the Library under the following Regulations, which were adopted early in the year:

1. The Library will be open to the public for the delivery of books every Saturday during the year, from half-past 4 to 9 o'clock, P.M.

2. Persons taking books from the Library are required to return them within two weeks.

3. The terms for taking books are as follows: Five cents per week if not retained over two weeks; ten cents for each succeeding week.

4. Do not turn down leaves, or make marks on the books, or deface them in any way.

5. Persons losing books must replace, or pay for, a new copy of the same.

6. All books must be returned to the Library on or before the second Saturday in December.

These rules are printed on a slip of paper, with a column for "register," and one for "date of delivery," and pasted inside the cover of each and every volume. At the bottom a gentle hint is given in these words: "*Donations* of books, magazines or pamphlets thankfully received." It has been a matter of surprise that so few have availed themselves of this opportunity for doing good. The empty shelves and bare walls would look much better filled with *Standard Works*, Books of Reference, &c. We need more books of history, biography, science and art, travels by land and sea, among the mountains and across the prairies. We would urge this matter upon the attention of the citizens of Swampscott, and those who visit us in summer. Is it too much to ask, that each adult person shall contribute *one book*, large or small, every year? Let no one wait till he can send a *dozen* volumes; send *one* good book, and you will "cast bread upon the waters."

APPROPRIATIONS.

Hitherto the annual appropriation has barely sufficed to pay the Librarian and Janitor for their services, making it necessary to pay for oil, fuel, bookbinding, etc., out of the weekly receipts, and so far retarding the growth of the Library. This should not be so. Here we are building up an institution to be transmitted, we trust, to future generations; — an *educational institution* no less than our schools, which we very properly cherish and liberally endow. Very few of either sex leave school without a taste for reading; and while they acquire a business education by mingling with the world and "roughing it," a good library and reading-room, in connection with conversation, letter-writing, etc., will become their teachers, and continue the education begun in the primary school, on through life. Regarding the Library, then, as a school, and the books as silent teachers, while your Committee pledge themselves to strive only for the highest interests of their fellow-citizens, may we not confidently look for a much larger "appropriation" for the coming year? It is not our intention to increase the current expenses, but, if possible, to diminish them; as, in the division of labor, it is our opinion that one hundred and fifty dollars per annum should pay for the services of a competent librarian, especially, if books are delivered but once a week.

On town-meeting day you will be asked to be liberal towards your library. At the same time, we have some reason to expect generous donations from private individuals during the coming year; and when a Memorial Hall shall be erected on some eligible site overlooking the sea, we will respectfully ask for one large room to be fitted up expressly for our Library, and another adjoining for a Reading Room.

E. E. BOYNTON,
D. W. FULLER, } TRUSTEES.
F. O. ELLIS.

Swampscott, Feb. 27, 1875.

Baldwin
Collection

Does Not
Circulate

SWAMPSCOTT PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1996 00132 2975